

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189266 TOSEC 080275
ORIGIN PRS-01

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS - TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 10, 1977

NO. 29

1. STATUS OF CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: I SAID WE HAVE AGREED ON MANY OF THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION AND ARE WORKING TOWARD FINAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL, BUT CANNOT EXACTLY ANTICIPATE WHEN THAT WILL BE ACHIEVED. ASKED IF ANY DEADLINE FOR CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS EXISTED CONTINGENT ON EXPIRATION AUGUST 10 OF LINOWITZ APPOINTMENT, I SAID THERE ARE NO DEADLINES; AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED WHEN IT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED OUT SATISFACTORILY FOR BOTH SIDES.

2. REPORT THAT FOREIGN, NON-AFRICAN TROOPS INCLUDING CUBANS ARE INVOLVED IN ETHIOPIA FIGHTING IN OGADEN: ONLY INFORMATION I COULD OFFER IS THAT WE ARE AWARE SOVIETS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN MOVING WEAPONS INTO ETHIOPIA SINCE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR. ON CUBANS, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE ABOUT 50 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN ETHIOPIA. WHILE ON SUBJECT, I SAID WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO SUPPORT OAU MEDIATION EFFORT IN OGADEN DISPUTE AND HOPE PARTIES CONCERNED WILL RESPOND TO OAU APPEAL, THAT FIGHTING WILL END PROMPTLY, AND THAT

ENDURING SOLUTION CAN BE WORKED OUT PEACEFULLY.

3. REPORTED FRENCH DECISION TO IMPOSE TOTAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA: WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN EXACTLY WHAT FRENCH REPORTEDLY HAVE SAID, I NOTED THAT IN PRINCIPLE

WE BELIEVE IN RESTRAINT OF ARMS EXPORTS AND ARE OURSELVES FOLLOWING A POLICY SO DESIGNED. I RESERVED ANY FORMAL COMMENT UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN WHAT FRENCH MAY HAVE ACTUALLY ANNOUNCED.

4. LONDON AFRICA TALKS: IN RESPONSE QUESTION ASKED YESTERDAY, I SAID MOOSE AND PETTERSON WILL GO FROM DEPARTMENT, JOINING BOWDLER AND LOW AND SECRETARY'S PARTY IN LONDON.

5. FYI, MARVIN KALB ASKED QUESTION ON 242 WHICH I DEFERRED TO THE PARTY. QUESTION WAS WHETHER USG WILL OR WILL NOT ENCOURAGE ATTEMPT TO AMEND 242. PRESIDENT, SAID KALB, SAID TWO DAYS AGO IT WOULD SUIT US OKAY IF 242 WERE AMENDED. SECRETARY, NOTED KALB, SAID TODAY (AT JERUSALEM NEWS CONFERENCE) THAT U.S. WILL DISCOURAGE ANY ATTEMPT TO AMEND 242. MARVIN ASKED IF AMERICAN POLICY HAS CHANGED IN LAST TWO DAYS.

CHRISTOPHER

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